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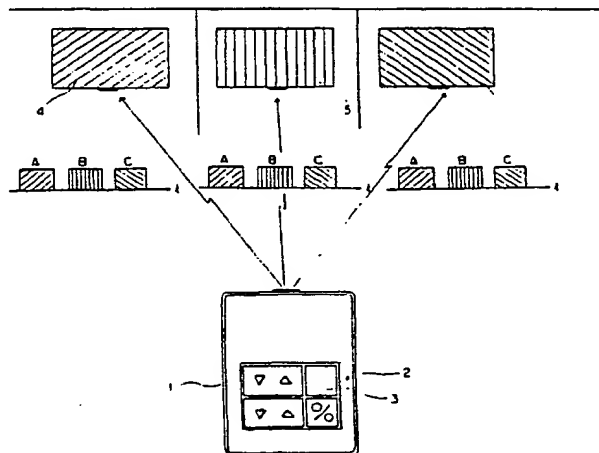
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(54) A wireless remote controller.

(57) Disclosed herein is a new and improved wireless remote controller capable of remote controlling each of several devices (4, 5 and 6) under control into each mode of operation without requiring any switching operation for switching among said devices under control and thus having no device switching key mounted thereon. The wireless remote controller has a plurality of operation mode selection keys (2) and is designed to operate in such manner that when the controller is directed toward one of the devices under control and any one of said operation mode selection keys is depressed, a corresponding operation mode signal is generated and transmitted to said device under control. The operation mode signal comprises a series of consecutive signal components for operating all the devices under control. Said device under control receives only the associated one of said signal components of the operation mode signal and is put into operation in the mode selected by said key.

FIG. 1



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A WIRELESS REMOTE CONTROLLER

The present invention relates to a wireless remote controller and more particularly, to a new and improved remote controller capable of remote controlling each of several devices under control into each mode of operation without requiring any switching operation for switching among said devices under control.

PRIOR ART:

As is well known, a number of wireless remote controllers have been widely utilized for both industrial and household applications. For example, in the household application, the controllers for controlling several electric devices such as television sets, video devices, doors, curtains, lights, air conditioners, audio devices, car doors and the like have been provided. On the other hand, in the industrial application, the controllers for controlling automatic machines, robots and production lines have also been provided.

In the early time, with reference to the field of television sets, because there were different types of television sets manufactured by, for example, companies A, B and C, the corresponding number of types of wireless remote controllers that are suitable for specifications of A, B and C companies, respectively, were also provided and each type of the controllers was exclusively used with the corresponding type of television set.

Accordingly there has existed an economical inconvenience from both manufacturer and user sides in that the manufacturers of the remote controllers should produce the different types of controllers corresponding to all types of television sets and the users should replace the controllers by new ones when they change the types of television sets.

However a wireless remote controller having a device switching key capable of switching among the television sets was recently developed and marketed. In order to more clearly understand the present invention, the prior art arrangement of the remote controller of this type will briefly be described with reference to Fig. 2.

In Fig. 2, a numeral 1' represents a remote controller of the prior art; a numeral 2' represents a plurality of operation mode selection keys; a numeral 3' represents a power switch key; a numeral 4' represents a device switching key for switching among several devices under control (briefly represented for the sake of clarity); a numeral 5' represents a television set made by a company A; a numeral 6' represents another television set made

by a company B; and a numeral 7' represents a further television set made by a company C.

Operation of the remote controller 1' is described below by way of example. At first the device switching key 4' for switching among the devices under control is depressed to select the television set 5' made by the company A. Then the power switch key 3' is depressed to generate an operation mode signal selected by the oscillator section, namely, a POWER ON or OFF operation mode signal A' suitable for the television set 5' made by the company A, thereby effecting POWER ON or OFF operation of the television set 5'. Thereafter when any one of the operation mode selection keys is depressed, the operation mode signal in compliance with the specification of the television set 5' made by the company A is generated from the remote controller 1'. On the other hand when the controller 1' is to be used for controlling the television sets 6' and 7' made by the companies B and C, respectively, the device switching key 4' is again depressed to select the desired television set. Then when the power switch key 3' is depressed, the POWER ON or OFF operation mode signals B' and C' suitable for the television sets 6' and 7' made by the companies B and C, respectively, are generated.

As described above, the wireless remote controller of the prior art can satisfactorily be used to control a plurality of devices under control and therefore can find a wide range of applications. Unfortunately the remote controller of the prior art may not provide the reliable results depending upon the control condition of the devices under control.

For example, in the case where said prior art controller is used for controlling several devices under control into each mode of operation, and where a frequent switching operation among the devices under control must be effected, there is no longer time interval occurring between the switching operations of the devices under control, the switching operations become cumbersome to execute and sometimes may cause a switching error. By way of further example, assuming that there are three lights installed in a room and it is required that these lights be operated in such a manner that one of the lights is turned ON and others are turned OFF, then it is a significant matter to provide three remote controllers, one for each light, as in the previous arrangement. However the prior art remote controller having the device switching key as stated above can preferably be used in such circumstances. Nevertheless there still remains the problem of cumbersome switching operations de-

pending upon the switching frequency as stated above.

Although typical applications of the remote controller have been described above, it is to be noted that there remains the same problem in other devices under control, such as video devices, industrial products and the like.

In view of the foregoing, it is an object of the present invention to provide an improved remote controller capable of controlling a plurality of devices under control, by itself, without the use of a device switching key for switching among the devices under control and thus having no such device switching key provided thereon.

More specifically when any one of a plurality of operation mode selection keys, for example, a power switch key on the remote controller is depressed, a POWER ON or OFF operation mode signal constituted by a series of consecutive signal components for operating all of the devices under control is generated and transmitted by the remote controller. It is important that upon depression of one of the operation mode selection keys, no simultaneous, but consecutive, generation of said signal components constituting the operation mode signal is effected.

In order to achieve the above object, the present invention provides a wireless remote controller to control the operation of several devices comprising plurality of operation mode selection keys and a signal transmitter designed to operate in such a manner that when any one of said keys is depressed an operation mode signal is transmitted which signal corresponds to said operation mode selection key depressed characterized in that said operation mode signal including a series of consecutive signal components where each signal component is received by only one of said several devices whereby each device may be operated in the same mode corresponding to said depressed operation mode selection key.

According to the arrangement as described above, when the remote controller is directed toward one of said devices under control 4, 5 or 6 and one of said plurality of operation mode selection keys 2, for example, a power switch key 3 is depressed, a series of consecutive signal components A, B and C for turning ON or OFF the devices under control 4, 5 and 6, respectively, is sequentially generated.

In other words, there is no need for a device switching key mounted thereon.

Each of the devices under control 4, 5 and 6 receives only an associated one of said consecutive signal components A, B and C. More specifically the device under control 4 receives only the signal component A; the device under control 5 receives only the signal component B; and the

device under control 6 receives only the signal component C. Furthermore the devices under control 4, 5 and 6 are non-sensitive to those signal components other than its associated ones of said signal components A, B and C. Therefore each of the plurality of devices under control are put into the operation in the mode selected by said key. The arrangement according to the present invention is significantly useful in such case where high frequency switching among the plurality of devices under control should be effected.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS:

The present invention will now be described with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:

Fig. 1 shows an embodiment of a wireless remote controller constructed in accordance with the present invention; and

Fig. 2 is a schematic view representing a prior art wireless remote controller.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT:

Referring now to Fig. 1, a numeral 1 represents a wireless remote controller according to the present invention and a numeral 2 represents a plurality of operation mode selection keys. Assuming that the devices under control are television sets, the operation mode selection keys comprises a channel forward operation mode selection key, a channel reverse operation mode selection key, a volume increment operation mode selection key, a volume decrement operation mode selection key, a TV/VTR operation mode selection key, a power switching operation mode key and the like. A numeral 3 represents the power switching operation mode key. The remote controller 1 presents a low profile card shape.

The remote controller is designed for controlling the plurality of devices under control 4, 5 and 6 positioned in somewhere within a building R. It is assumed, herein, that the devices under control are constituted by television sets 4, 5 and 6 made by companies A, B and C, respectively.

The remote controller is arranged such that when any one of said operation mode selection keys is depressed, the corresponding operation mode signal is generated and transmitted. The operation mode signal is defined as follows:

(1) When the power switching operation mode selection key 3 is depressed, then the remote controller generates and transmits the operation mode signal having a series of consecutive

signal components A, B and C each of which turns ON or OFF the associated one of the television sets 4, 5 and 6;

(2) In the same manner, when the channel forward or reverse operation mode selection key, the volume increment or decrement operation mode selection key, or the TV/VTR operation mode selection key is depressed, then the remote controller generates and transmits the operation mode signal having a series of consecutive signal components A, B and C each of which renders the associated one of the television sets 4, 5 and 6 to be operated in the mode selected by said key.

(3) The consecutive signal components each constituted by a 12 bit code of logical high ("H") and low ("L") states are shown in Table 1 below. The 12 bit code is defined and programmed in such a manner that the logical 'H' bit is provided by a longer time interval of 1.2 msec and the logical 'L' bit is provided by a shorter time interval of 0.6 msec. There is a spacing of 0.6 msec between the adjacent bits.

The definition of the code stated above is only for the purpose of illustration and a different type of the code may be used instead therefor. It is only necessary that the individual signal components for controlling the different devices under control can be distinguished from each other.

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TABLE 1

	Operation Mode Signal for																									
	First Device under Control 4												Second Device under Control 5												Third Device under Control 6	
	Bits												Bits												Bits	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2
Names of Keys Operation Modes	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L
Channel Forward	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L
Channel Reverse	H	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L
Volume Increment	L	H	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L
Volume Decrement	H	H	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L
TV/VTR	L	L	H	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L
Power Switching	H	L	H	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L

If desired, an identifier bit may be inserted into the operation mode signal between the individual signal components for controlling the different devices under control.

Operation of the remote controller according to the present invention will be described below:

Assuming that the remote controller 1 is directed toward one of the television sets 4 and one specific key, for example, the power switching key 3 among the plurality of operation mode selection keys 2 is depressed, then the power switching operation mode signal constituted by the series of consecutive signal components A, B and C for turning ON or OFF the associated ones of the television sets 4, 5 and 6 are generated and transmitted by the remote controller. The television set 4 receives only the signal component A among the consecutive signal components A, B and C of the power switching operation mode signal and is tuned ON or OFF thereby. The television set 4 is non-sensitive to other signal components B and C of the power switching operation mode signal.

In order to turn ON or OFF the other television sets 5 and 6, it is only necessary that the remote controller 1 is directed toward either of these television sets and the power switching operation mode selection key 3 is again depressed. Then the power switching operation mode signal constituted by the series of consecutive signal components A, B and C as stated above is also generated and the associated one of the signal components is received by either of the television sets which is then turned ON or OFF.

The same operation can also be applied relative to other operation mode selection keys.

It is apparent from the foregoing that according to the present invention one remote controller can be used for controlling a plurality of devices under control into various modes of operation without use of the device switching key for switching among the devices under control as in the prior arrangement. Therefore the remote controller according to the present invention is most suitable for such circumstances that the frequent switching operation among several devices under control is required and it is unlikely to produce the switching errors as in the prior art arrangement.

More specifically a single key operation of any one of said operation mode selection keys effects to generate said operation mode signal constituted by the series of consecutive signal components for operating all the devices under control, thereby achieving highly efficient remote control operation therefor.

5 1. A wireless remote controller to control the operation of several devices comprising plurality of operation mode selection keys and a signal transmitter designed to operate in such a manner that when any one of said keys is depressed an operation mode signal is transmitted which signal corresponds to said operation mode selection key depressed characterized in that said operation mode signal including a series of consecutive signal components where each signal component is received by only one of said several devices whereby each device may be operated in the same mode corresponding to said depressed operation mode selection key.

15 2. A wireless remote controller as claimed in claim 1, where said signal components include a first 12 bit code of binary high and low states.

20 3. A wireless remote controller as claimed in claim 2 where said signal components also includes a second 12 bit code which is inserted before said first 12 bit code to distinguish and identify each one of said several devices.

25 4. A wireless remote controller as claimed in claim 3 including means to program the order of said high and low states of said signal components.

FIG. 1

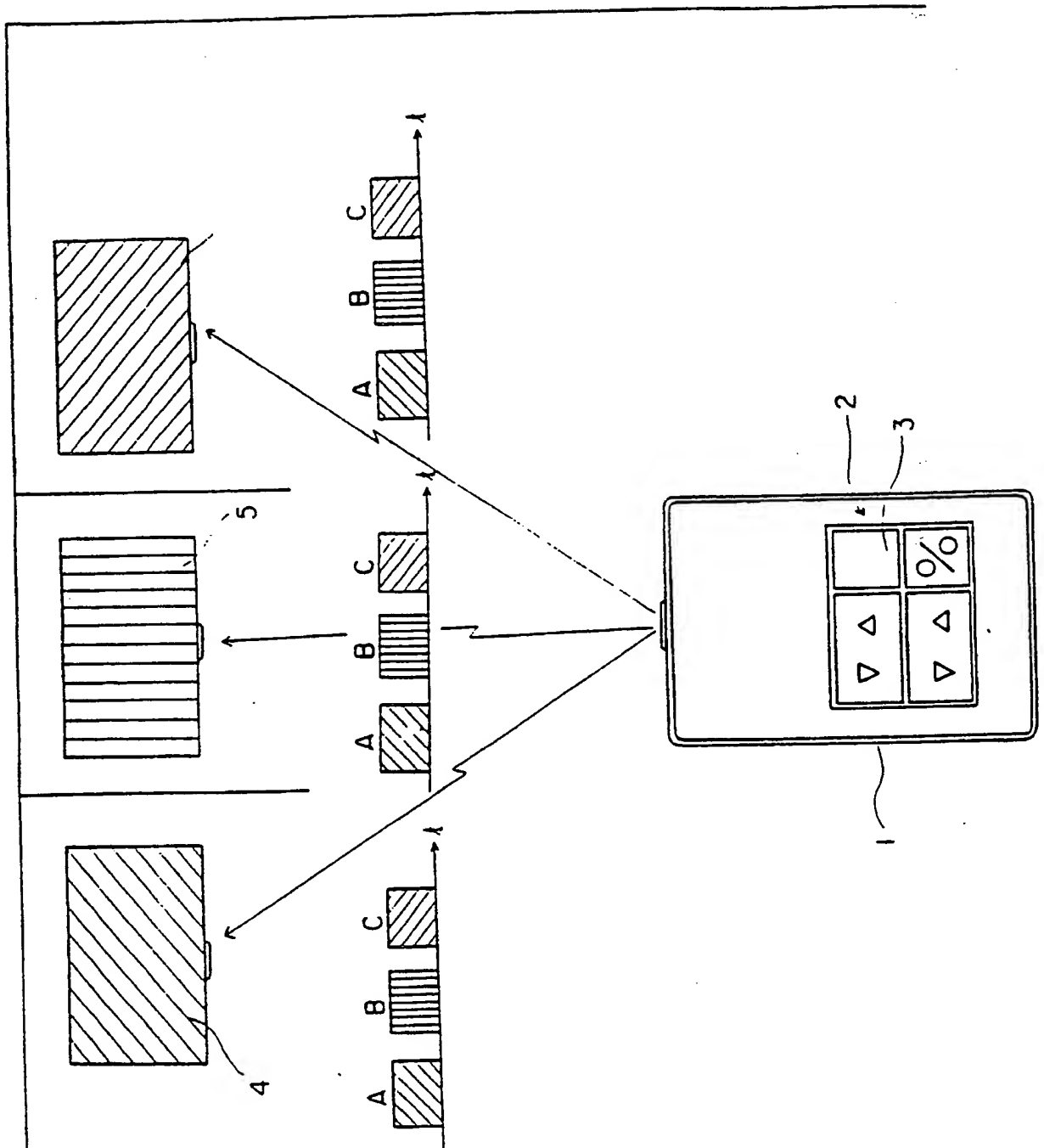
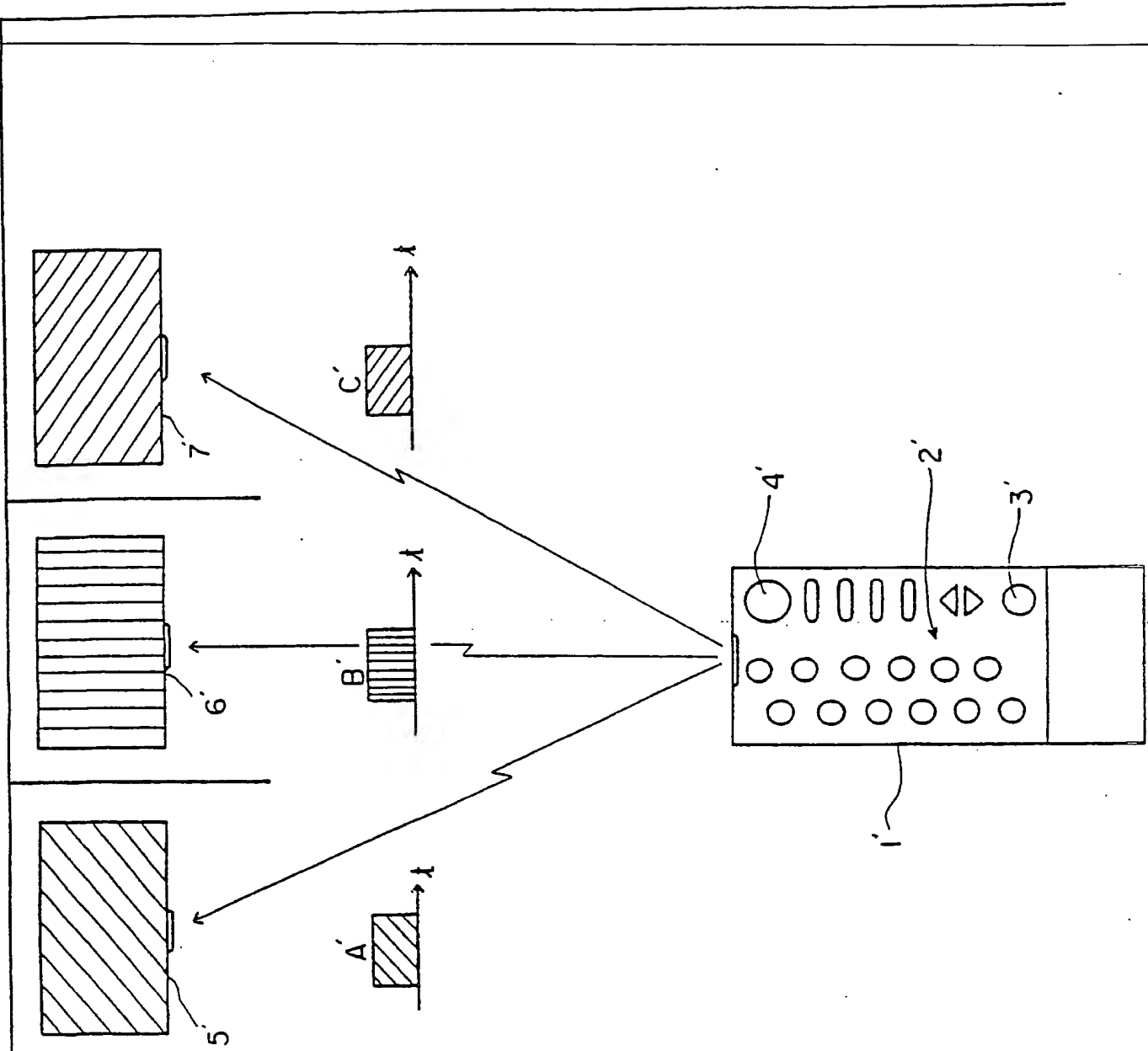


FIG. 2

(PRIOR ART)





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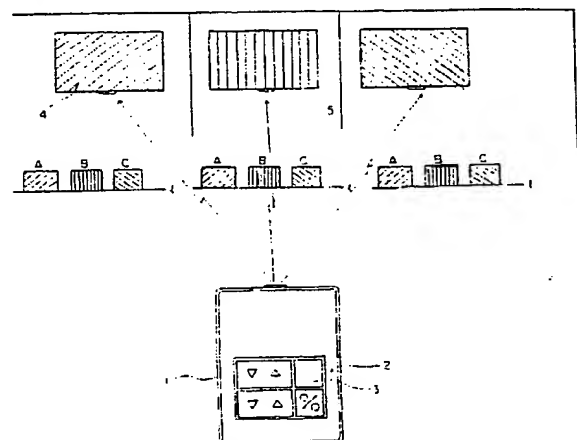
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FIG. 1



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

EP 90 30 4051

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl.5)
Y	EP-A-0 255 580 (QUESTA) * Page 2, lines 1-19; page 3, line 9 - page 4, line 21 * - - -	1	G 08 C 17/00 G 08 C 19/28
Y	US-A-4 686 529 (KLEEFELDT) * Abstract; column 2, line 50 - column 3, line 50 * - - -	1	
A	GB-A-2 019 071 (VOXSON) * Abstract; page 1, lines 4-91 * - - -	1-4	
A	DE-A-2 304 874 (ROBERT BOSCH ELEKTRONIK) * Page 1, line 1 - page 4, line 9; figure 1 * - - - - -	1	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.5)
			G 08 C 17 G 08 C 19
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search The Hague		Date of completion of search 19 December 90	Examiner MCDONAGH F.M.
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			